ABSTRACT

      In a first aspect, a method is provided for determining in which of n intervals a sum of two or more numbers resides. The method includes determining the two

5   or more numbers, and providing fewer than n compress circuits each adapted to (1) input the two or more numbers; (2) input range information regarding ranges used to define the n intervals; and (3) compress the two or more numbers and the range information into two or more outputs. The

10   method further includes employing the fewer than n compress circuits to determine in which of the n intervals the sum of the two or more numbers resides. Numerous other aspects are provided.